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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9235
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RHEFHLC/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1281
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 9277
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 3641
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5072
RUEHKS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 1851
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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3447

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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/J AND OES/ENRC - MARK JOHNSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [ETRD](#) [EAGR](#) [BTIO](#) [PREL](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: Demarche on Implementation of Amended Lacey Act

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REF: STATE 126654

11. (U) Environmental Officer, Senior Animal and Plant Health Officer, and Agricultural Scientist met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (MOFA) Second North America Division Deputy Director Tsuyoshi Uchida, Global Environment Division's Toshihisa Kato, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' (MAFF) International Economic Affairs Division Assistant Director Tsuyoshi Iwata, Export Promotion Office Assistant Director Junsuke Imai, and Wood Products Trade Office Assistant Director Rumiko Yamanouchi December 4 to deliver Reftel points.

12. (U) The MAFF officials said it will be difficult to identify the country of origin for wood products in the absence of domestic labeling requirements, especially for small companies that do not source their wood directly. Currently, Japan has no such labeling requirements. Imai hoped there would be an exemption for small quantities such as the personal effects of Japanese moving to the U.S. The MAFF officials indicated they would like to participate in the public comment process for the revised Lacey Act implementing rules and said they look forward to further clarification of the implementing rules.

13. (SBU) In addition, the MAFF officials said Japanese paper manufacturing companies had contacted them to ask the Embassy to brief their representatives. The paper companies are concerned about possible negative impacts on their business from the changes to the Lacey Act. APHIS Officer said he would be happy to hold a briefing but believed it would be more useful if it took place after the additional implementing regulations have been published.

SCHIEFFER